

ty of milk and butter cannot be made from silage." These are only samples of the stuff that goes the rounds of the press, but the worst thing about the whole business is, that people read and believe these statements.

Then this slush gets into the "patent insides" of the country papers, in many cases the only papers taken in some families, where it is read and believed to be true. In such cases it does more harm than can easily be estimated, conveying false reports to the very people it is most desirous to keep informed of true progress.

Not long ago a staff correspondent of this paper offered to pay anyone one dollar to show an intentional misleading statement in its columns, or in those of any other high-class farm paper, and he might safely have made the offer ten dollars. With the regular farm paper, it is facts and instructions; with the others, sensation and readable matter, without regard to the character of it. Errors will creep in, even in the writings of the most careful contributor to any paper, but we have all noticed how promptly and cheerfully such errors are corrected in the farm press, while in the newspapers they roll on and on like a snowball, getting worse with each republication. The general public sat down hard upon "long range weather predictions" a year ago, and now no one of any extensive reading pays any attention to the statements of long-haired professors, that "owing to a conjunction of Jupiter and the moon, general storms will occur September 16."

Long ago people stopped talking about the influence of the moon on vegetable growth, the signs of the zodiac on animal surgery, or the seven rainy Sundays that were supposed to follow a rainy Easter day, and it will not be long until they will cease to believe the wild stories emanating from the general newspapers, turning to the agricultural press as the source of agricultural knowledge and truth.

#### Biggest Farm in the World.

In a moment of vinous enthusiasm Daniel Webster put his hand in his pocket, asked how much the national debt was, and offered to pay it himself. A Mexican farmer, Don Luis Terrazas, a great friend of President Diaz, once offered to assume the Mexican national debt; and it wouldn't have kept him awake nights if his offer had been accepted. Don Luis has what you might call a tidy little farm at Chihuahua; about eight million acres. Takes the Mexican Central trains more than half a day to cross it. Whew! Don Luis is thought to own more than a million cattle, but a bagatelle of a hundred thousand or so more or less never bothers him. His stable consists of some 100,000 horses; his sheepfold of 700,000 sheep, from 200,000 to 300,000 calves are branded with his brand every spring. More than a thousand cowboys and so on keep his cattle on a thousand hills. By the way, his farm includes a few mountains, for diversification. At his slaughter and packing houses near Chihuahua city, 250,000 cattle, as many sheep, and hogs innumerable are killed; and away they go in his own refrigerator cars. Some 40,000 persons dwell on his estate and are ruled by this Arabian Nights farmer, who lives in a two million (silver) dollar castle and is a swell and nabob such as these United States know not.—Everybody's Magazine.

#### Finns in Maine.

The great difference in the various nationalities of immigrants, is shown by the following from Farm, Field and Fireside:

Not only in Maine but in every state there is a deplorable number of abandoned farms. One hardly understands the reason for this, just at a time when railroads are opening up great possibilities to the rural land-owner.

In Maine a colony of thrifty Finns are wonder-workers in reclaiming these abandoned farms.

Jacob McKeen is the prime factor in this movement. He came here from Finland sixteen years ago. With \$80 in his big, leather pocket book, an am-

bition to work, he purchased one of these "hopeless" farms. When McKeen took possession of these 75 acres the transformation began in which the practical farmers of Oxford county have become interested. Two tons of hay was the product the first year—to-day 18 cows and other stock graze to their fill. Last year, when other farmers found it difficult to raise sweet corn, McKeen's check from a nearby factory was \$400.

Hundreds of dollars had been spent in the valley in the efforts to dam the brook sufficiently to cut ice. McKeen took two men, and in three days built a dam that held back one of the worst floods ever known in that section. Instead of being obliged to haul ice a dozen miles, he now has all the ice he wants on his own property and enough for several of his neighbors.

How does he do it?

McKeen says a farm wears out exactly like a shoe. When he cuts the trees in the forest, instead of burning the brush, he leaves it on the ground to decay. This is all carefully worked into the ground. Like the shoe, with constant wear, land becomes worn out and unfit for use. McKeen's method is to bring it back to where it was, to provide for it the fertilizer that nature would furnish in the natural course of events, if man kept his hands off. He has employed the same methods in Finland, and by a combination of American and Finish ideas has worked out to his own satisfaction a problem, which many others tried to solve and failed.

Then McKeen sent to Finland for thirty men. He taught them how to speak English, and let them live with him and work on his farm until they learned the American ways, and helped them to secure farms of their own.

Not one of them has failed. The lonely, deserted valley has become an earthly paradise. It is an ideal spot for a people who delight in outdoor life, who can look up at the sun and tell within five minutes the time of day, who like to whip their own trout brooks for a choice dinner, and make friends with the birds of their own woodlands.

#### Shop on the Farm.

The following article, from Farm and Ranch, should have been entitled a blacksmith's shop on the farm, for that is what it recommends. We are ready to endorse it all, but think that it should include a wood-working shop. Possibly the writer supposed that every farmer had a shop and tools for working in wood. In addition to the other tools, we would also add a small pair of tinner's shears, soldering iron (or copper) and such things as are needed to mend tin ware.

The value, importance and economy of a small blacksmith shop on the farm, however small, is obvious. The time and money saved by such an acquisition may be small or large as the case may be, according to the size of the farm and the farmer's needs.

"Well," the farmer pleads, "I am not able to put up a shop and could not use one if I had it."

Why not?

"Because I never thought of such a thing and have never had any training in iron work."

You need no special training to do some blacksmithing. About all that is needed to sharpen plows is to heat them a little more than red hot and then flatten them to a thin edge on the anvil. It matters not how you hit the plow point so it comes to an edge. There is but one care to be taken, that is not to beat the point out of shape unless you know how to shape it up. If you should knock one out of shape try to cut it in shape. If you can't shape it to fit no serious harm is done. Take the point to a good smith and have him shape it for you. He will sputter about it perhaps and pout a little, and act cranky a little to discourage you, but never mind. He desires to impress you that it takes a genius to learn to heat a piece of iron and

dash it. You continue to persevere and the first thing you know you can sharpen a plow equally as well or better than your village blacksmith.

Now, you must learn to temper that plow point. Tempering is more difficult, yet a very simple thing, if a few rules are followed. To temper a point, put it in the fire and let it get to a low red in color and souse it into the water, keeping it there until it stops frying, and the temper will be just right. Don't souse it in the water and then jerk it out quickly and look at it, then plunge again and look again and so on until you have a dull blue in color, and call that tempering. Rest assured you have no temper at all, for plow steel takes no temper at a blue; it is always white when you have the proper temper. Plow steel will take no temper below a red heat in color.

When this steel gets to a red heat the more you heat it the harder it becomes. So if you get it too hot the work will be too hard.

Now to test and see where we are, take a new file, if you think your work has too high temper, and run it over the part desired to take a temper. If it glides over like it was on glass your work is too hard and will break. If the file will just cut it is just right. A little experience with this will set one all right along this line.

Should the work be too hard put it in the fire and heat just a little at a time and try with the file and just as soon as the file will cut it plunge quickly into water and your temper will be right.

There is a great deal to learn in a shop, but anyone who will try can sharpen plows, make lap rings, weld chains and run threads on bolts, or into nuts and make an indefinite number of useful articles at odd times. All sorts of things can be repaired quickly. If you can not do the job neatly at first fix it anyway and you will improve in time by the experience gained.

Oh, the cost of a shop! That need not be much. \$25 to \$30 ought to be a sufficient amount to put up a shop 10x12 feet square and get a sufficient number of tools to do light work and save itself during a season. Of course the better the shop one can put up the better, but the least sort of an affair to do work in at all will be of great benefit. Sharp tools, well set to the work required of them, save many bushels of corn in the way of feeding teams and besides the teams will be kept in better condition to do farm work. The economical business is to have a shop.

#### Unreasonable Claims.

The newspapers are full of items making exaggerated statements about

some crop or other. We have before now reprinted notes calling attention to some of them, but the following from Farm and Ranch is so good that we give it space:

The intelligent reader is now-a-days frequently struck with the unreasonable claims made for this or that new agricultural product, system of cultivation, method of fertilizing, plan to breed plants or animals, etc. A very safe test of any of these extravagant claims can be made by asking the question, "was that high-shearing record made on a single goat or did the flock of Angoras actually clip so high?"—did that pecan yield of so many thousand dollars per acre represent the crop from one pet tree or was it obtained from an average of the yields and values from 100 trees; is that yield of 150 bushels of corn per acre the result of an estimate based on the shelling out of two ears of corn from one stalk, yielding a quart—four stalks to the gallon—32 stalks per bushel—4840 stalks per acre—"estimated yield," 150 bushels!

The people may not figure out and prove the absurdity of some of the high-flown claims made from time to time by unknown correspondents, but the reason they do not take the trouble to investigate is due to the fact that they already know, they feel, the untruth, the essentially misleading tendency of some isolated fact which has been given as coming from some large operations. "One swallow does not make a summer."

## CHEAP COLUMN

RATES—Twenty words, name and address, one week, 25c.; three weeks, 50c.

FOR SALE—Improved large Japanese sugar cane seed, grown on Florida Oaks Plantation, Duval Co. Price \$1.00 per 1000 feet, f. o. b. Jacksonville. Special price for large orders. Address Fla. Oaks Plantation, 11 Laura St., Jacksonville Fla.

POTATO GROWERS—Send for Professor White's Potato Bulletin, full of Valuable Scientific Information. Learn how to save \$8 to \$10 per acre on your Irish potato seed bill and raise 2,500 bushels per acre. Price 50 cents, guaranteed. Address Scientific Gardening, Dayton, Miss. 1-3-3m

FOR SALE—Several hundred very fine grape fruit buds, two years old. Address, Box 271, Orlando, Fla.

FOR SALE—Rough Lemons. WILSON & FLYE, Miami, Fla.

CUT-AWAY HARROWS and repairs. E. S. Hubbard, Agent, Federal Point, Fla.

FOR SALE—One 15 h. p. boiler and one 15 h. p. Erie engine. Second hand; recently in use. Condition supposed to be fair, but not guaranteed. Will be sold for almost nothing to make room for other machinery. Speak quick. THE E. O. PAINTER PRINTING CO., DeLand, Fla. tf

## Copper Plate Engraving

### and Printing

Of all kinds in the highest style of art promptly executed.

Latest designs in Wedding Invitations, Visiting Cards, and Business Stationery.

E. O. PAINTER & COMPANY

DE LAND, FLORIDA